

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1022

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION designating April 2010 as “Foot Health Awareness Month” in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, promoting awareness of the impact of diabetes and the importance of education and medical management of the disease and its complications are very important to the members of this General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, diabetes is a disease that affects the body’s ability to produce and use insulin in amounts sufficient to control blood sugar levels; and

WHEREAS, diabetes affects 23.6 million Americans and, according to the American Diabetes Association, costs \$174 billion in the United States each year. Nearly 1.6 million new cases are diagnosed annually in this country; and

WHEREAS, people with any type of diabetes can develop blindness, heart disease and stroke, kidney disease, and nervous system disease (neuropathy); and

WHEREAS, diabetes is the leading cause of new cases of blindness among adults aged 20 to 74 years, and is the leading cause of kidney failure; and

WHEREAS, between sixty and seventy percent of people with diabetes suffer mild to severe forms of nervous system damage; and

WHEREAS, adults with diabetes suffer from heart disease at rates two to four times higher than adults without diabetes; and

WHEREAS, worldwide, sufferers of diabetes lose a leg or foot every thirty seconds due to complications from the disease, and medical experts estimate eighty-five percent of these amputations can be avoided through comprehensive diabetes control and patient education; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness of the impact of complications from diabetes will play a key role in educating others on the importance of prevention and treatment, and will result in better health for all individuals in this State and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, it is the hope of this body that raising awareness of the importance of the early detection of diabetes, the prevention of diabetes, and the treatment of the complications of this widespread disease will save lives and limbs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby designate April 2010 as "Foot Health Awareness Month" in Tennessee and join with the American Podiatric Medical Association to encourage all healthcare providers, insurers, and purchasers to support the increase of awareness of and education about the many complications associated with diabetes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.